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geologist, and, in a scarcely less degree, every European one whose geology is sufficiently comprehensive, must welcome such a work as the present, and thank Mr. Miller for the patient care with which he has arranged nine thousand valid generic and specific names, besides more than two thousand italicized synonyms. The author does not claim perfection, but has taken care to come as near to it as can reasonably be expected. With the exception of three names in the Echinodermata, no families have been admitted except such as have been already defined. The etymology has received, in great part, the revision of Professor E. W. Claypole, who contributes a preface upon the construction of systematic names in palæontology. This is followed by an introduction to stratigraphical geology; in which Mr. Miller clearly states his belief in the fossiliferous nature of Eozoon; gives the approximate thicknesses of the groups of strata and states at what horizon the various animal groups first made their appearance. The total thickness of the palæozoic beds is given at about twenty-eight miles. The classification is not up to the present standard. All the plants enumerated are given under the caption "Plantæ;" Haeckel's name, "Protista," is used to include the Rhizopoda and Porifera, among which Nullipora has in some way become intercalated; the sub-kingdom, Radiata, is retained, and its species are alphabetically arranged under the heads "Polypi" and "Echinodermata;" and the Bryozoa and Brachiopoda are classed as Mollusca, but are separately catalogued. No attempt is made to define the characters of any family or larger group, excepting in the case of some new groups of *Echinodermata*, which we will refer to again. There are, as might be expected in so exhaustive a work, some etymological errors, especially among the names of the Vertebrata. The work is a valuable one, and will lose none of its value by the demonstration of a few shortcomings which a third edition may easily correct.

REMARKS ON THE SYSTEMATIC ARRANGEMENT OF THE AMERICAN TURDIDÆ.¹—Dr. Stejneger gives, in the last sheets of the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, a systematic analysis of the family of the Turdidæ or thrushes. We find this paper to be more intelligible than the systematic writings of ornithologists usually are, and commend it as a valuable monograph. The nominal family of the Saxicolidæ is abolished; the Myiadestinae are included, while the Miminæ are dismissed to the wrens. All this and much more comes from relying on structure instead of physiognomy, and abandoning "instinct" in favor of analysis. Under criticism like that of Mr. Ridgway and Dr. Stejneger, ornithology will soon rank among the exact sciences.

¹ Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, 1883, p. 449.